

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 PM-09 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 GAC-01 USIA-12 TRSE-00

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S E C R E T REYKJAVIK 0548

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR IC

SUBJECT: IDF RETENTION ISSUE

REF: REYKJAVIK'S 0043 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY PRO- IDF OPPOSITION PARTY LEADER REQUESTS
INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE TO HELP COUNTER ANTI- IDF
ATTACKS THAT WILL DEVELOP AFTER GOI INVOKES ART VII.

END SUMMARY.

2. GEIR HALLGRIMSSON, VICE CHRMN OF INDEPENDENCE PARTY
(LARGEST OPPOSITION PARTY IN ALTHING AND STAUNCHLY
PRO- IDF), CONTACTED ME THIS WEEK TO EXPRESS CONCERN OVER FON-
MIN AGUSTSSON' S INTENTION TO INVOKE ART VII. HE SAID WORD
IS LEAKING (PROBABLY PURPOSELY) FROM PROGRESSIVE PARTY CIR-
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CLES ON FONMIN' S INTENTIONS. HE ALSO STATED FONMIN IS MISLEADING PRO- IDF ELEMENTS IN HIS OWN PROGRESSIVE PARTY AS WELL AS IN OTHER PARTIES BY INTIMATING INVOKING ART VII IS MERELY A PROCEDURAL STEP NECESSARY TO INITIATE MODIFICATIONS IN THE DEFENSE AGREEMENT. HALLGRIMSSON ALSO REPORTED THAT PROGRESSIVE PARTY LEADERS ARE DISARMING PRO- IDF ELEMENTS BY SAYING NO ONE NEED BE CONCERNED BECAUSE THERE IS NO MAJORITY IN ALTHING FOR FORCING IDF OUT OF ICELAND. HE SAID AGUSTSSON IS DECEIVING HIMSELF WHEN HE THINKS THE ALTHING MAJORITY IS CERTAIN TO SAVE THE IDF. HALLGRIMSSON BELIEVES IF VOTE WERE TAKEN TODAY THERE WOULD BE NO DOUBT IDF WOULD WIN OUT, BUT HE WAS NOT SURE THIS WOULD BE THE OUTCOME SIX MONTHS FROM NOW BECAUSE OF THE SPLINTERING OCCURRING IN THE PROGRESSIVE AND SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTIES. HE FEARS THE POSSIBILITY OF IDF BEING LOST IN THE SHUFFLE OR BEING BARGAINED AWAY BY SOME CURRENT IDF SUPPORTERS IN ALTHING FOR DOMESTIC POLITICAL GAIN.

3. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUESTION AS TO WHETHER HE THOUGHT AGUSTSSON HAD IN MIND ALL ALONG TO INVOKE ART VII, HALLGRIMSSON REPLIED IN THE NEGATIVE. HE SAID IT WAS A RECENT DEVELOPMENT FORCED ON AGUSTSSON BY THE COMMUNISTS IN THE GOVT AND BY DISSIDENT ELEMENTS IN HIS OWN PARTY. HE ATTRIBUTED PART OF THE SHIFT TO THE LACK OF PROGRESS IN THE FISHING LIMITS DISPUTE. HALLGRIMSSON SAID BEFORE AND AFTER FONMIN' S VISIT TO WASHINGTON IN JANUARY AGUSTSSON APPROACHED INDEPENDENCE AND SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY LEADERS WITH PROPOSAL THAT IF THEY WOULD NOT PROVOKE A DEBATE ON IDF RETENTION ISSUE IN ALTHING HE TOO WOULD REFRAIN FROM INITIATING ANY ACTION. BOTH OPPOSITION PARTIES AGREED. HALLGRIMSSON SAYS AGUSTSSON IS NOW BETRAYING THIS COMMITMENT.

4. HALLGRIMSSON SAID HE RECENTLY SAW NATO SEC GEN LUNS IN STOCKHOLM AND ADVISED HIM OF AGUSTSSON' S INTENTIONS. LUNS SAID HE WOULD TRY TO ENCOURAGE THE SMALLER COUNTRIES IN NATO TO EXPRESS THEIR CONCERN TO ICELAND THROUGH NATO CHANNELS.

5. HALLGRIMSSON FEELS IT IS FOREGONE CONCLUSION GOI WILL INVOKE ART VII, AND ATTACK ON IDF SUPPORTERS WILL COMMENCE IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER. HE EXPECTS TO TAKE LEAD IN HIS PARTY TO COUNTER ANTI- IDF FORCES AND REQUESTS ASSISTANCE FROM THE
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EMBASSY. THIS WAS PURPOSE OF HIS CONTACTING ME. HE ASKED TO BE KEPT INFORMED GENERALLY ON IDF MATTERS THAT HAVE BEEN COMMUNICATED TO FONMIN WHICH HE SAID HE WOULD USE WITH DISCRETION AND FOR BACKGROUND ONLY. HE SPECIFICALLY ASKED TO SEE THE PAPER WHICH HE UNDERSTOOD WE RECENTLY GAVE TO FONMIN IN RESPONSE TO FONMIN' S WASHINGTON TRIP. HE WAS REFERRING TO THE SECRET PAPER ENTITLED " RATIONALE FOR THE SE-

CURITY OF ICELAND." I TOLD HALLGRIMSSON IT WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE FOR ME TO LET HIM SEE THE PAPER. I REMARKED HE ALREADY KNEW THE INFORMATION IN THE PAPER SINCE HE HAD MORE OR LESS GOTTEN SAME INFORMATION IN BRIEFINGS AT KEFLAVIK (REFTEL). HE THEN ASKED WHETHER IT WOULD BE PERMISSIBLE IF I ONLY READ THE REPORT TO HIM IN MY OFFICE. I SAID I WOULD THINK ABOUT IT.

6. ACTION REQUESTED. AUTHORITY TO PERMIT ME TO READ THE " RATIONALE" PAPER TO HALLGRIMSSON. ADMIRAL BELING (COMICEDEFOR) AGREES THERE IS NOTHING IN THE PAPER WHICH HALLGRIMSSON HAS NOT HEARD IN ONE FORM OR ANOTHER DURING BRIEFINGS. I RECOMMEND I BE PERMITTED TO TAKE THIS ACTION ON AN FYI BACKGROUND ONLY SO AS TO STRENGTHEN OUR STAUNCH PRO- IDF FRIENDS. HALLGRIMSSON IS A STRONG SUPPORTER OF US FOREIGN POLICY AND CAN BE COUNTED ON FOR DISCRETION.
IRVING

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